

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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**Mayor O'Connell Collaborates with Neighboring Communities
To Establish Regional Vaccination Site**

Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell shared collaborative efforts with neighboring communities to establish a regional vaccination site.

After weeks of collaborative planning, the City of Taunton submitted its regional vaccination site plan to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for approval today. To meet the state's requirement of vaccinating 750 people per day as a regional site, Taunton initiated a collaboration of cities and towns in Bristol County comprised of Taunton, Attleboro, Fall River, Dighton, Berkley, Swansea, Somerset, and Freetown. "I am grateful for the willingness of our neighboring communities to pull together to meet the need for a regional vaccination site," O'Connell said.

The Mayor's Office has worked closely with the Director of Health and Human Services in Fall River to create a plan that meets all the state's requirements. The final plan calls for a weekly vaccine clinic hosted in Taunton two days, one day in Fall River, one day in Somerset and one day in Attleboro.

"Taunton has held four well-organized, successful clinics for our seniors. Now that the state has indicated local clinics cannot be held, we are collaborating with surrounding communities to run a regional clinic. The planning for this is extensive and our team of professionals have submitted to DPH a comprehensive plan that will serve Taunton and Bristol County," O'Connell explained.

Each of the collaborating cities and towns has proposed a location within their community that accommodates hundreds of people, has ample parking, is handicap-accessible and is near local highways or freeways. The City of Taunton has proposed two potential locations for the state to consider: Holiday Inn in Taunton and Raynham Park in Raynham. Both locations meet all the state's requirements and are easily accessible to local residents.

"It was extremely important to us that we choose a location that is local, accessible and convenient for our Taunton residents, and especially our seniors," said O'Connell.

While all regional sites must post appointments on the mass.gov website, a site located in Taunton will create more opportunities for Taunton residents and will provide a much-needed local option for city residents.

"We are hopeful that the state will approve our collaborative plan and we can get moving on opening up the regional site right away," said O'Connell. The City of Taunton website (taunton-ma.gov) and Facebook page will provide updates as soon as additional information is available.

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